



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

May 10, 2002

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To: Louisiana State Legislature

During the 2002 Regular Session many budgetary issues will come before you that are vital to the economic future of Louisiana. One of these budgetary issues is the funding of health care.

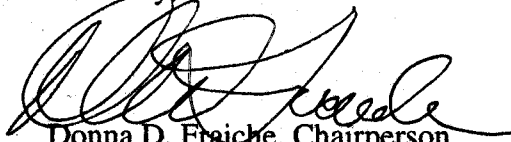
The Louisiana Health Care Commission¹, a 44-member statutorily created health care advisory board to the Commissioner of Insurance voted at its April 26, 2002 meeting, with the concurrence of the Commissioner of Insurance, to support appropriate and full funding of Louisiana's publicly funded health care budget.

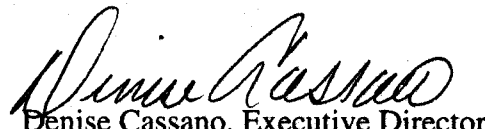
Additionally, during this meeting the commission voted in support of any economic incentives that would encourage employers and employees to offer and purchase affordable health insurance.

Lastly, the Louisiana Health Care Commission unanimously passed a resolution, which is attached, urging the Legislature to contact Louisiana's Congressional Delegation in support of H.R. 854 and the Senate companion bill S. 572, which extends modifications to Disproportionate Share (DSH) funding allotments provided under the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000.

We kindly ask for your consideration of these matters. Please do not hesitate to have a member of your staff contact our office at 225-342-0819, if we can be of assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,


Donna D. Fraiche, Chairperson
Louisiana Health Care Commission


Denise Cassano, Executive Director
Louisiana Health Care Commission

DEC:vv
Enclosure

¹ The Commission was created in 1992 by Act 1068 and is composed of a great variety of interests and health care experts, including health care payers and providers, employer organizations, community leaders, as well as consumer interests. Members are also nominated from the governing boards of Louisiana's state colleges and universities and the Senate and House Insurance committees.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS

It is within the stated mission and purpose of the Louisiana Health Care Commission to study the availability and affordability of health care in the State of Louisiana.

AND WHEREAS

H.R. 854 introduced in Congress by Representative Ed Whitfield on March 1, 2001 and referred to the Subcommittee on Health on March 14, 2001 and S. 572 introduced by Senator Lincoln Chafee and referred to the Committee on Finance on March 20, 2001, amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to repeal specified reductions after FY 2000 and thereby extend certain modifications to Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotments provided under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 and if enacted would be cited as the "Medicaid Safety Net Hospital Continued Preservation Act of 2001".

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Given that Louisiana is significantly dependent upon disproportionate share funding to provide access to care for the uninsured, fund medical education, fund mental health, support state public hospitals and rural hospitals and any other hospitals serving the uninsured, the Louisiana Health Care Commission supports any funding at a local level and therefore supports H.R. 854 and S. 572 in Congress that repeals specified reductions and extends certain modifications to DSH allotments.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

The Louisiana Health Care Commission urges the Louisiana Legislature to contact Louisiana's Congressional Delegation in support of H.R. 854 and S. 572 that amends title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend modifications to DSH allotments provided under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000.

On the 26th Day April of 2002.

LOUISIANA HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

BY:


Donna D. Fraiche, Chairperson